

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 FEA-02 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11

EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14

ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 OIC-04 DRC-01 /272 W

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R 292132Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5631

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 8477

FROM US DEL LOS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: LOS: CONTINENTAL SHELF

1. SUMMARY. AUSTRALIA HOSTED A GROUP ON AUGUST 22 AND 27 TO DISCUSS CONTINENTAL MARGIN JURISDICTION BEYOND 200 MILES. UK, CANADA, ARGENTINA, NEW ZEALAND AND U.S. PARTICIPATED. NORWAY ATTENDED SECOND SESSION BRIEFLY MAKING NO STATEMENT. INDIA WAS INVITED BUT DID NOT ATTEND. MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO BROADEN SUPPORT, INTERSESSIONAL WORK, REVENUE SHARING, AND PRECISE DEMARCATION OF LIMIT DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

2. AUSTRALIA PRESENTED LISTS SHOWING: (1) 50 STATES HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT OF COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION OVER THE RESOURCES OF THE CONTINENTAL MARGIN BEYOND 200 MILES AND (2) 41 STATES OR DEPENDENCIES HAVE MARGINS BEYOND 200 MILES, OF WHICH 18 HAVE SPECIFICALLY SPOKEN IN FAVOR OF JURISDICTION BEYOND 200
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MILE LIMIT. UK INDICATED ITS PRELIMINARY STUDIES SHOW 13

ADDITIONAL STATES TO HAVE MARGINS BEYOND 200 MILES ALTHOUGH IN SOME INSTANCES ADDITIONAL AREA IS RELATIVELY SMALL.

3. CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION WAS DEVOTED TO AFRICAN ADHERENCE TO STRICT 200 MILE LIMIT WITH NO COASTAL STATE RESOURCE JURISDICTION BEYOND (OAU DECLARATION). SENEGAL, MAURITIUS AND POSSIBLY MAURITANIA APPEAR WILLING TO WORK WITHIN OAU FOR CHANGE OF POSITION. CANADA VOLUNTEERED THAT ITS GOOD WORKING RELATIONS WITH KENYA AND TANZANIA WOULD ENABLE IT TO APPROACH THESE STATES BEFORE FEBRUARY 1975 ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY MEETING TO DETERMINE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT JURISDICTION BEYOND 200 MILES. KENYA HAS INFORMED CANADA THAT IT IS PREPARING A REVENUE SHARING PROPOSAL WHICH MAY BE INTRODUCED OR CIRCULATED BEFORE CLOSE OF CARACAS SESSION.

4. IN DISCUSSION OF REVENUE SHARING, CANADA INDICATED THAT, WHILE DELEGATION HAS NO PRESENT AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT CONCEPT, BELIEF WAS GROWING THAT IT WOULD BE NEEDED TO OBTAIN REQUIRED SUPPORT FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR JURISDICTION BEYOND 200 MILES. CANADA REPORTED KENYA, TANZANIA, SRI LANKA AND INDIA THINK IT INDISPENSABLE TO CONFERENCE AGREEMENT. CANADA IS CONSIDERING QUOTE A DRAMATIC MOVE END QUOTE, POSSIBLY BY ITS PRIME MINISTER, ON THE ISSUE. AUSTRALIA, UK, AND ARGENTINA EMPHASIZED THEY HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT REVENUE SHARING BUT ARE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO REPORT ALL PROPOSALS BY OTHERS. NEW ZEALAND SUPPORTS REVENUE SHARING. US WAS PRESSED TO PROVIDE CONCRETE DETAILS OF REVENUE SHARING PROPOSAL BUT DID NOT GO BEYOND STANDING POSITION EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT TEN PERCENT OF PRODUCTION, REPORTEDLY BEING DISCUSSED BY MAURITIUS, SEEMED HIGH ON BASIS OF OUR INFORMATION.

5. US INTEREST IN PRECISE AND PERMANENT DEMARCATION OF COASTAL STATE LIMIT WAS PRESENTED. THE GROUP EXPRESSED INTEREST IN FURTHER DISCUSSION FOLLOWING STUDY. PRIVATELY CANADA REACTED NEGATIVELY AND UK INDICATED CONCERN OVER POSSIBLY ADVERSE EFFECT ON ROCKALL.

6. THE CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP WAS THAT MORE SUPPORT THAN NOW EVIDENT WAS NEEDED TO SECURE COASTAL STATE RESOURCE JURISDICTION BEYOND 200 MILES. INTERSESSIONAL WORK INCLUDING BILATERAL APPROACHES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES APPEARED DESIRABLE. CANADA
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PROPOSED CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK DURING OCTOBER 28 MEETING OF EVENSEN GROUP. ITEMS IDENTIFIED FOR DISCUSSION, ON THE BASIS OF THINKING OF GOVERNMENTS AT THE TIME, INCLUDED SPECIFIC APPROACHES TO GENERATE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND CONCERTED REVENUE SHARING PROPOSAL. AUSTRALIA WILL TAKE LEAD TO FOLLOW UP CANADIAN SUGGESTION.
STEVENSON

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